Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are the Government aware of the present price of bananas in the Mattancheri Bazaar, this week or last week and how it compares with that on the 5th of September 1943?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* One fruit was selling from 6 pies to one anna a week back.

Mr. President: Order, Order. This is not occasion for the Hon'ble Member to give information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What was the price on the 5th September?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What was the price on the day of the Control Order?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The price was more. It was over one anna.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* And at present.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is less.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: കൊച്ചിക്കണയന്തൂർ താലൂക്കിനെ ഇതിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കണമെന്നു വല്ല മെമ്പർമാരും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിലേക്കു എഴുതിയയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ തീരുമാനം എന്തായിരുന്നു?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was stated that it was not necessary.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the price which was stated to be less was ascertained? How was the information ascertained that the price was less.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* By enquiry.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Enquiry you made?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* By the local officers.

Mr A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it by a written report or verbal or actual buying experience?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sometimes by written reports and sometimes by oral.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* In the present case, whether it is by written reports or by experience or by verbal reports?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I can't say definitely.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know whether Koorka and Kachal come under the definition of yam?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

ABSENCE OF PADDY OR RICE IN THE FAIR PRICE SHOPS

6. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the complete absence of paddy or rice in all Fair Price Shops at Vadakkancheri on 26th Chingam 1119;

(*b*) the complete absence of kerosene oil on the 24th of Chingam onwards;

(*c*) if the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative will they be pleased to state who are responsible for this failure of supplies;

(*d*) is it not a fact that the order to issue rations for three days from 24th to 26th of Chingam inclusive to all was actually communicated only on the 27th and 28th of Chingam;

(*e*) will Government be pleased to realise the widespread heartburning of having to starve on "Onam" days, and take adequate action in this matter?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) There was no dearth of kerosene oil on the dates referred to.

(*c*) No answer is called for in view of the answers to (*a*) and (*b*).

(*d*) No. The order was communicated on 24th Chingam itself.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will the Government be pleased to assure that the orders said to have been communicated to the subordinates were actually received on the 24th.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It might have been received on the 25th and we issued it on the 24th.

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Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether they have made an enquiry and ascertained that it was received on the 25th or 24th. My information is otherwise. That is why I put the question.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Diretcor of Food Supplies):* It was issued from here on the 24th itself. I want notice.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I do not know how Government can claim notice in view of the fact that the question refers to orders said to be issued on the 24th were actually communicated only on the 27th and 28th of Chingam.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Apart from the communication of the order I may submit for the information of the Hon'ble Member that oral instructions were also issued in the same matter by me.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether after receipt of this question enquiries have been made as to the exact date or even the time at which these orders were received by the respective officers and shops concerned ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice. I have not got the exact information. The suggestion was that there was delay in issuing the order. So I thought that this answer would suffice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* My present question, Sir, is whether on receipt of this question enquiries have been made to ascertain whether as a matter of fact these orders have been received by the officers concerned in time ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes. I may submit that I referred to the file and the information is that the order was received on the 24th itself in Vadakkancheri.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is that information, Sir, supplied by the officer concerned at Vadakkancheri ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

7. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the statement published in the *Gomathi*, dated 1st Kanni 1119 (17th September 1943) that a telegram was despatched to the Director of Food Supplies by inhabitants of Pulloor Village complaining of absence of rice in the Fair Price Shop is true;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative has this fact been brought to the notice of the Government by the Director of Food Supplies: if not, why not?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* (*a*) A telegram was received from the Secretary, Karshakasabha, but there was no complete lack of rice in the shops. The stock was low.

(*b*) No. It was not thought to be necessary.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Was the stock sufficient to disburse the requirements under the cards issued ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There was no sufficient stock available for issuing to all the cards ; because some quota that was expected to arrive did not arrive in time.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know, Sir, when that information was received by the department, *viz.*, that the stock there was insufficient?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I got the information only after the report of the Assistant Supply Officer was received.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* What was the object, Sir, of the Government in issuing the orders that the rations for three days should be supplied ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The object was that being Onam it was desirable that the people were given three days' full rice ration and it was then expected that one ship containing 670 tons of rice will be arriving here soon. On that basis we issued instructions that three full days' ration during the Onam days should be given. There was some delay in the consignment arriving here. So we got a temporary loan from British Cochin and despatched rice from there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, when did the idea of giving a chance to the poor of the State to enjoy the Onam properly enter the head of the Government ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I can't give the exact date. If I remember correct about a week ago I issued instructions to the officers.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether Onam is a thing which has sprung upon us, or whether it is a period well-recognised and sufficiently well-known in advance ?

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Onam is a customary function which comes off every year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Therefore, may I know, Sir, whether the failure to have sufficient stock to meet this contingency is not the result of a dereliction of duty on the part of the authorities concerned to look ahead and see that stocks are available for these important days?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* We had no stock in the State and we had to borrow from other Governments. The expected rice did not come. So there was delay. So, with the quantity at our disposal in most of the places we disbursed 3 days full rice rations for Onam. There was no dereliction of duty at all.

INCREASE OF RATIONS DURING "ONAM"

8. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they had issued orders to Fair Price Shops and Depots to issue three days' full rations before the "Onam;"

(*b*) if so, what was the object of the order.

(*c*) whether before the orders were issued they were pleased to ascertain the stock at the disposal of these shops;

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Yes. Orders had been issued to the Assistant Supply Officers and Deputy Tahsildar, Cranganur, to arrange for the issue of 3 days' ration before Onam if there was stock enough to meet the demands.

(*b*) The object of the order was to give facilities to the card-holders to enjoy the Onam as usual.

(*c*) Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: അന്ന ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിലെ സ്റ്റോറിൽ എത്രപറ നെല്ല കിടപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന എന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു ഓർമ്മയുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That does not rise out of this.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: കൊച്ചിയിൽ സ്റ്റാക്ക് ഇല്ലെന്ന പറഞ്ഞു എന്നാണ ധരിപ്പുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു പറയുകയാണു.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I cannot give the exact figure now. The excess quantity alone we can transport. We were expecting sufficient stocks to arrive from Madras or Sind and they did not come at that time.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ഇഷ്യു ചെയ്യാനുള്ള സ്റ്റോക്ക് ഇല്ലായ്കയാലാണു വൈകിയതു എങ്കിൽ ആ അവസരത്തിൽ ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ എത്ര പറ നെല്ല ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു വാങ്ങിയതു കിടപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന എന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു ഓർമ്മയുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was not possible to move the entire stock from Chittur and distribute it in other areas throughout the State during Onam.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ഓണക്കാലത്ത് കൊച്ചി രാജ്യം മുഴവനും ആവശ്യമുള്ള നെല്ല ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിൽനിന്നും അവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടേ കൊടുപ്പാൻ പാടുള്ള എന്ന നിശ്ചയിച്ചതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* For how many days, Sir, ration was as a matter of fact issued?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Most people got 3 days' full rice ration.

Mr. President: Order, order. It is not the time to give information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, what exactly the quantity required was for meeting the full requirements of 3 days in the Vadakkancheri area which alone is the specific point raised here?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Government have, Sir, been given notice of the main question. Therefore, I am asking, Sir, whether the Government have had made enquiries to say that the Vadakkancheri shop required such and such quantity of rice, paddy and other rational food stuffs.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* We cannot issue to one shop alone. We cannot say whether the issue could have been made in regard to all the shops.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is there any question that you had some paddy in the neighbouring places to be distributed for Onam there and you have not done the distribution of the paddy that is available?

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